

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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DEA MEX 892  
DEAHQS FOR CRCI/GITCHEL, TR/OLIVANTI, EN/EVANS.

E.O. 11652:N/A DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT BY DEA ONLY.  
TAGS:SNAR/MEX  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO U.S. BY MEXICAN REGULATORY  
OFFICIALS, DR. ADAN PUNARO RONDANINI AND HIS ASSISTANT.

1. ON AUGUST 23, 1977, ADVISOR ON COMPLIANCE AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS (ACRA) PAUL A. HUGENTOBER MET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE MEXICAN OFFICE OF CONTROL OF FOODS, BEVERAGES, AND DRUGS FOR PURPOSES OF INITIATING A LIAISON BETWEEN DEA AND THAT OFFICE. SINCE THAT DATE, ACRA HUGENTOBER HAS MET WITH THE CHIEF OF THE OFFICE OF NARCOTICS, DR. ADAN PUNARO RONDANINI, ON A DAILY BASIS. ACRA HUGENTOBER HAS ACCOMPANIED MEXICAN INSPECTORS ON A WIDE RANGE OF REGULATORY INSPECTIONS IN ORDER TO GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEXICAN SYSTEM OF REGULATION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES. BY THE END OF HIS TDY ASSIGNMENT, ACRA HUGENTOBER WILL HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEXICAN SYSTEM. SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING IS VITAL IN ORDER THAT DEA MANAGEMENT CAN FURTHER EVALUATE THE NOW ESTABLISHED DEA/MEXICAN REGULATORY LIAISON PROGRAM.

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2. THE LIAISON WITH DR. PUNARO HAS PROGRESSED TO THE POINT WHEREBY DR. PUNARO AND HIS FIRST ASSISTANT, SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE UNITED STATES FOR A FIRST-HAND VIEW OF DEA OPERATIONS. THE FUNCTIONS OF DEA AND DR. PUNARO'S OFFICE ARE VERY SIMILAR. HOWEVER, THE WAY EACH AGENCY GOES ABOUT CARRYING OUT ITS DRUG CONTROL REGULATORY

FUNCTIONS IS VERY DIFFERENT. MEXICO EMPHASIZES THE CONTROL OF RAW MATERIALS AT THE MANUFACTURING LEVEL AND FINISHED PRODUCTS AT THE PHARMACY LEVEL. FEW CONTROLS EXIST IN BETWEEN.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WOULD BE TWO-FOLD. FIRST, THE VISIT WOULD ALLOW DR. PUNARO TO BECOME VERY FAMILIAR WITH DEA'S REGULATORY PROGRAM. THUS, DR. PUNARO WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY HEADQUARTERS AND FIELD OFFICE FUNCTIONS WHICH SHOULD GIVE HIM IDEAS WHICH HE COULD APPLY TO THE MEXICAN SYSTEM.

4. SECONDLY, KENNETH A. DURRIN, ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS, AND HIS STAFF WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. PUNARO. THE LIAISON PROGRAM IS TO THE POINT WHERE SUCH DISCUSSIONS OF DEA ASSISTANCE TO THE MEXICAN REGULATORY PROGRAM ARE IMPERATIVE TO THE CONTINUANCE OF THE LIAISON PROGRAM.

5. THE PROPOSED VISIT SHOULD IDEALLY TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY OR MARCH OF 1978. THE VISIT, TO ACCOMPLISH ITS GOALS, NEEDS TO BE THREE WEEKS IN DURATION. THE FIRST WEEK WOULD CONSIST OF BRIEFINGS ON HEADQUARTERS REGULATORY FUNCTIONS AND MEETINGS WITH MR. DURRIN AND HIS STAFF. THE SECOND WEEK WOULD ENTAIL VISITS TO SEVERAL FIELD OFFICES

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WITH CONCENTRATION ON INVESTIGATIONS OF DISTRIBUTORS AND MANUFACTURERS. THE FINAL WEEK WOULD CONSIST OF SEVERAL DAYS AT THE DEA SPECIAL TESTING AND RESEARCH LABORATORY AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. DURRIN. DR. PUNARO HAS INDICATED THAT SHOULD SUCH A VISIT BE POSSIBLE, HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE DURING THE ABOVE-INDICATED MONTHS.

6. THE MEXICO CITY REGIONAL OFFICE BELIEVES THAT SUCH A VISIT WILL GREATLY BENEFIT DEA AND THE MEXICAN REGULATORY LIAISON PROGRAM AND STRONGLY URGES HEADQUARTERS' APPROVAL OF THE VISIT.

7. IF THE VISIT OF DR. PUNARO AND HIS ASSISTANT IS APPROVED BY DEA HQS. AS PROPOSED, IT IS REQUESTED THAT FUNDING BE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE PER DIEM AND TRAVEL. RD KIERE. LUCEY

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